

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 OC-06 PER-05 COME-00 EB-11

FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02

DRC-01 /170 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0089

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8008

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT IS

SUBJ: ISRAEL SITUATION REPORT

1. RADIO NEWS AT 1:30PM TODAY CONTINUES TO PROJECT
CERTAIN OPTIMISM ABOUT MILITARY SITUATION. MOST OF
COVERAGE DWELLS ON CONTINUED IDF ADVANCE INTO SYRIA, INCLUDING
REPORTED DOWNING OF 26 SYRIAN MIG-21S. ISRAELI LISTENERS ARE
BEING TOLD THAT DAMASCUS RESIDENTS HEAR SOUNDS OF BOMB
EXPLOSIONS IN SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE. MILITARY COMMENTATOR
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HAIM HERZOG SAID ON RADIO THAT SYRIAN ARMY SHOWS "SIGN OF

DESPERATION"AND THAT SYRIAN AIR DEFENSE IS "IN A VERY BAD WAY."
HE ADDED THAT IDF STRATEGY IS TO GET THROUGH HEAVILY DEFENDED
AREAS IN SYRIA AND THEN DEVELOP WAR OF MANEUVER FREELY.
SYRIAN COMMAND WILL THEN BE FACED WITH DIFFICULT ALTERNATIVE OF
SPREADING ITS FORCES ALONG ENTIRE FRONT OR CONCENTRATING IT AT
EXPECTED POINTS OF IDF ADVANCE. IN SINAI, HERZOG SAID THAT IDF
IN PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE GAME WITH EGYPTIANS WHO WERE SUFFERING
HEAVY LOSSES OF EQUIPMENT AND LIFE.

2. ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT RELIEVED BY SUCH NEWS, ISRAELI PUBLIC MOOD
ISSOMBER DUE TO GROWING REALIZATION THAT WAR WILL BE
LENGTHY AND CASUALTY TOTAL UNUSUALLY HIGH.

3. CIVILIANS HAVE RETURNED TO ALL GOLAN HEIGHTS SETTLEMENTS ALONG
LEBANESE BORDER CONTINUE TO BE OBJECT OF SHELLING BY KATYUSHA
ROCKETS.

4. RADIO NEWS HAS GIVEN PROMINENCE TO ZAYYAT'S RETRACTION OF
EGYPTIAN STATEMENT THAT IAF HAD SHELLED CAIRO, CHANGING THIS TO
CHARGE THAT IT HAD HIT AIRFIELDS NEAR CAIRO.

5. SHOPS REMAIN OPEN ON REGULAR SCHEDULE. SOME SHORTAGES OF
BREAD AND MILK ARE REPORTED, BUT THESE MORE LIKELY DUE TO TRANS-
PORT PROBLEMS THAN TO LACK OF SUPPLIES. THERE IS NO
EVIDENCE OF HOARDING. IN RESPONSE TO WAR, POST OFFICES WILL BE
OPEN TOMORROW, THE SABBATH, FOR MAIL TO SOLDIERS. BANKS ARE
OPEN TODAY FOR SALE OF WAR BONDS. FORMER AMBASSADOR RABIN HAS BEEN
APPOINTED HEAD OF FUND RAISING DRIVE WITHIN ISRAEL FOR MOBILIZING
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY. SPECIAL
PHONE SERVICES HAVE BEEN SET UP FOR TRANSMITTING MESSAGES
FROM SOLDIERS TO FAMILIES AND FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION ON
SOLDIERS IN HOSPITALS. ALL SHIPPING COMPANIES REPORTEDLY HAVE
INTERRUPTED THEIR PASSENGER VESSEL SERVICE TO ISRAEL. LOD
AIRPORT REMAINS OPEN.

6. ISRAELI POLICE HAS STATED TO EMBASSY THAT SITUATION IN OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES REMAINS QUIET.

7. IN CHANGE OF PLANS, SCHOOLS WILL REOPEN SUNDAY CANCELLING
OUT TEN DAY SUCCOTH HOLIDAY. MANY YOUNGSTERS HAVE BEEN PERFORMING
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VOLUNTARY SERVICES. TEACHER SHORTAGE IS FELT ONLY ON HIGH
SCHOOL LEVEL AS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE ALMOST ALL
WOMEN.
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